

willing to take on the management of our waste disposal problems, and were licensed when they began operation, should be expected to ante up thousands and perhaps even millions of dollars assessed to clean up a landfill. There are currently six such landfills, not including Platte County, which could possibly be in the same situation.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: No, I'm not done, Mr. Speaker, I was just wondering if anybody was listening to this because it's very important to me. This is my priority bill.

SENATOR MOORE: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you,...

SENATOR MOORE: Please give Senator Robak your attention.

SENATOR ROBAK: ...I'm glad you had the opportunity to do that again. I would just like to offer a little bit of background on this site. The Aerni landfill was operated from 1975 to 1985 near Duncan in Platte County. The reason he operated this landfill was because the City of Columbus closed their landfill in 1975. This was the primary dump for the City of Columbus. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality conducted a comprehensive assessment of community solid waste disposal sites in 1988. This particular site was investigated to assess the threat to human and the environ...human health and the environment. Interesting enough, in 1990, a report from the NDEQ found no immediate threat due to low human and livestock population in the area. However, two years later the Department of Environmental Quality requested a step seven detailed site assessment to be conducted at the site. Field activities were commenced at the site in May, 1993. We could ask, why were further tests asked for two years later when the first assessments found no evidence of threat to human health. The owner is now looking at losing all he has worked for. His fees for remediation as well as legal fees are more than he will ever be able to pay. The state gave this man a license and set forth standards and approved compliance with those standards. Mr. Aerni has done everything that he, when he applied for his license to the Department of DEC to operate a solid waste landfill, he complied with all the rules and regs which were...and was issued a license. When the DEC closed the city